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TITLE: HYALURONIDASE INHIBITOR

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ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To obtain a hyaluronidase inhibitor, consisting essentially of a substance prepared by hydrolyzing a mucilage of shellfishes, having lubricity and softness of the skin and capable of preventing bacterial infection and aging.

CONSTITUTION: This hyaluronidase inhibitor comprises a substance prepared by, as necessary, subjecting a mucilage of shellfishes, preferably *Pictada martensii* to precipitating treatment, hydrolyzing the resultant substance with an acid (e.g. hydrochloric acid), an alkali (e.g. NaOH) or an enzyme, converting the mucilaginous ingredient into a low-molecular substance, desalting the obtained substance or desalting the substance and then hydrolyzing the desalted substance as a principal ingredient. The desalting is preferably carried out by washing the low-molecular substance with water or an aqueous solution of ethanol or treating the substance by a chromatographic method, etc., using an ion exchange resin. Remarkable suppressing effects on the hyaluronidase activity are recognized in the mucilage hydrolyzate of the shellfishes and the hydrolyzate prevents the hyaluronic acid from decomposing and contributes to the stabilization. Thereby, the skin is prevented from forming small wrinkles and drying up due to the aging and the gloss and tenseness of the skin are kept good.

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